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Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, Hawaii
Committee on Budget
June 1, 2016
Bill 36 CD1

Dale Krupa
2449 Ala Wai #1
Honolulu, Hawaii
tel: 808.561.3657
May 30, 2016

TESTIMONY OPPOSING BILL 36 CD1

Aloha Honorable Chair and Council Members,

My name is Dale Krupa. I am a Taxi driver in Honolulu for 25 years under contract with "The Cab" I represent myself and not necessarily the opinions of the Company I am under contract with. I do not collaborate with them. I oppose Bill 36 CD1 for the following reasons.

I object to the definition of a TNC in bill 36. TNC's currently fit the State and County definitions of a Taxi. You know they do. I guess that is why you feel it necessary to make a statement in this bill specifically stating "they are not Taxis". I object to HB 260 for the same reason.

At the last meeting Tabitha Chow nailed themselves as Taxis. She stated "Taxi's are scarce at 2:00am on the weekends and their "Uber cars" linger near bars and pick up drunk people and take them home". If that doesn't tell you TNC's are running Taxi service I don't know what does. That is exactly what legal Taxis do. This tale she told you about Taxi's be scarce at 2:00 or 4:00am is an outright lie. It is just the opposite and always has been. There are an excess of Taxi's everywhere competing for customers. And, always has been even prior to TNC's running around. I'm guessing you City Council folks are family people or "over the hill" and haven't been out at 2:00 or 4:00 am in decades. Honolulu is a party city. You should know there are thousands of Taxis out all hours of the night without me telling you. Or, Tabitha Chow trying to mislead you.

Honolulu does not have a medallion system. An unlimited number of Taxi business licenses are available for only \$50.00. It is easy to put a Taxi on the road in Honolulu. The tests and requirements are easy. You are allowed to use a map for the oral test and the written test is given in a dozen different languages. The winning argument Uber made in all other cities is that the Taxi Industry was closed and they filled a necessary travel option in cities where sometimes Taxis were actually scarce. Honolulu is just the opposite. Just enforce the current Chapter 12 Taxi laws and don't pass anything. Sometimes the best thing to do is nothing and enforce what you have.

Furthermore, this "connect" with an "app" thing is not so space-age as you may think. The current Chapter 12 Taxi laws says "Taxis may be radio dispatched" this covers cell phones, smart phones, two-way radios, etc. If you read up on the way cell, smart phones work you will find they emit a RADIO signal similar to a walkie-talkie to the nearest cell phone tower about 100 yards away. They are regulated by the FCC just like radio stations. The usage of smart phones and their apps are allowed now in the current Chapter 12 Taxi laws. It does not make them a different form of transportation. "The Cab" "Charley's" "Eco Cab" use computer software that connects to cell phone towers to connect with prearranged riders. Does that mean they are not Taxi Companies?

Bill 36 CD1 calls for Taxis and TNC's to do a Nationwide background check of their own. I very strongly oppose this. The Director of Customer Services told you last meeting State Law prohibits Nationwide background tests and fingerprinting. If the State and County can't do it legally then the State or County can't demand the individual or Company does one. That is the same thing. If you pass this it will be challenged in court. You're stuck with the local H.P.D. background check until State Law changes. That I believe is why you should listen to the Director when she very strongly suggests that "One year driving experience in Hawaii" should be an amendment to Chapter 12 Taxis. Currently the background check is done for two years in Hawaii only. Doesn't that mean if someone arrived from the mainland 10 days ago and got a Taxi certificate that the background check was only for 10 days. At least one year driving experience means they had a clean record here for a year. This is a serious safety loophole in the current law. I do support Nationwide background checks but only when it is legal in this State.

There is another serious oversight in Bill 36 CD1. It combines the TNC driver and vehicle together. Legal Taxis get a taxi drivers certificate. It is permission to drive a Taxi. It does not authorize the vehicle. Your bill authorizes the TNC driver and vehicle at the same time. You mean to tell me that you will give a "good to go" for two years type permit to a TNC driver whose insurance may expire a week later. This is reckless. The TNC driver certificate must be done separate from the vehicle being approved. The Owner of a TNC vehicle needs to be inspected exactly like taxis. Under the freeway by Market City, this inspection site can handle many more vehicles. Don't let them fool you. They are very busy with Taxis April May, June because all Taxi business licenses and insurance expire June 30th. You could have TNC's business licenses and insurance all expire December 31st to spread it out. The insurance issued for one year the same length of the business license is very important. Ask the Director of Customer Services. We all know 25 – 50 % of the cars on the road don't have insurance, making the business license and insurance for the same period helps prevent this.

Tabitha Chow's suggestion that the TNC Company get a permit for \$1000.00 per year for all 4000 Uber cars was a ridiculous statement. $\$1000 \text{ divided by } 4000 \text{ cars} = .25 \text{ cents per car a year permit fee. } 25 \text{ cents!}$ The Uber Company is worth 65 BILLION ! They think a quarter per year for each car is fair! I suggest you don't listen to her or their lobbyists and just enforce the current Chapter 12 Taxi Laws on them. They do fit the Taxi, Taxi Company definition.

Also, the Director of Customer Services claims to be short of resources. If the Taxi , TNC fee is increased to \$50 or \$100 that would give them several hundred thousand more dollars to hire a couple more workers. $3500 \text{ legal taxis now at } \$25 \text{ increased to } \$100 = \$75 \times 3500 = \$262,500 \text{ extra plus an extra } \$100 \times 4000 \text{ Uber cars} = \$400,000.$ Grand minimum Total \$662,500 extra money every two years. The Taxi counter at City Square on Dillingham is not particularly busy. With about 400 business days in two years. That means they currently process about 9 people per day. $3500 \text{ Taxi driver certificates divided by } 400 \text{ business days over two years is } 8.75 \text{ people to process per day.}$ Most are renewals and don't take so long. Every government agency always claims they are overworked and short of funds. They just don't want to work. Many just sit and read paperbacks until someone comes in. Just look around at The City Hall counters. They are not overworked.

Furthermore Bill 36 CD1 states a TNC company may not own, control, operate, or manage the personal vehicle used by TNC drivers. If you think Uber doesn't manage or control their 4000 vehicles I think you're quite mistaken. They have many Managers that control the driver and approve and inspect their vehicles and control, manage their cars the same way legal Taxi Companies do. In this Bill you're telling them to control, self-regulate their cars.

One and a half years ago City Council told these so called TNC's they were operating illegally but said they did not have the resources to tell them to cease and desist. Do you have the resources now? Or the courage, I read about Lobbyists from Uber courting City Councils Nationwide. Goldman Sachs has invested heavily in Uber with more lobbyists, Taxi Companies have their lobbyists also. I haven't taken a part in Government before and I am finding it very disappointing. This is the way Government should not work and is a serious flaw in our Country. Now Uber is running radio advertisements for the public to sign an on-line petition. So, expect that. I just ask for current Taxi Laws to be enforced on them and let them go and get their Taxi permits for only \$50 they way all legal Taxis do after meeting all the current requirements. Also, could you please have a H.P.D. Official at Council meetings to give their opinion. Thank you for you time.

Sincerely,

Dale A. Krupa

May 30, 2016

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2016 5:33 PM

Subject: Council Speaker Registration/Testimony

Speaker Registration/Testimony

All fields marked "*" are required and must be completed in order for this form to be valid.

Note: Registrations are not accepted prior to the agendas being posted.

Name(*) Dale Krupa
Phone (*) 808-561-3657
Email (*) cab580@operamail.com
Meeting Date (*) 2016-06-01
Council/PH Committee (*) Council
Agenda Item (*) bill 36 CD 1
Your position on the matter (*) Oppose
Representing (*) Self
Organization
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? (*) No

Written Testimony

Aloha, Uber has paired up with Alipay in China and the Alipay app. This is a Chinese type debit card owned by Alibaba China's Amazon. 450,000,000 million people in China use Alipay. This Uber/Alipay app is designed for Chinese overseas travelers to easily use Uber while abroad. They will get ripped off by Uber. Our Chinese visitors now don't have a clue what Taxis cost in Honolulu and will be profiled and targeted unfairly by Uber. Please don't allow this rate throttling by Uber. Thanks, Dale Krupa.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Conditions (*) 1

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